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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT
24500-000008/US

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Kazuyoshi MATSUMOTO	Conf. No.:	7509
Appl. No.:	10/727,609	Group:	2676
Filed:	December 5, 2003	Examiner:	Unknown
For:	OBJECT INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM, GAME APPARATUS AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD		

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Mail Stop Amendment

January 20, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information submitted for consideration by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, other than U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications unless required by the Office; (iii) for each cited pending unpublished U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or that portion of the application which caused it to be listed including any claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ☐ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form PTO-1449 or on the copies of Form PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number U.S. Filing Date

C. ☒ Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

D.☐ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. ☒ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ☐ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
2. ☐ English translations are provided for:
3. ☐ Other:

C. ☒ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicant encloses a copy of the European Search Report which issued on December 5, 2005 in corresponding European Patent Application No. 03257805.6.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ☐ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No. Filing Date Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. ☒ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of $180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

☐ before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of $180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

☐ after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ☐ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of $180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ☒ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ☐ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ☐ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ☒ No fee is believed to be due in light of the above-provided certification.

B. ☐ A check in the amount of $180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

C. ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of $180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By _____
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD:bof

Enclosures:
- ☒ Form PTO-1449(s) (1 sheet)
- ☒ Documents
- ☒ European Search Report issued on 12/05/2005
- ☐ Fee
- ☐ Other:

Form PTO-1449	ATTY DOCKET NO. 24500-000008/US	APPLICATION NO. **10/727,609**
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	APPLICANT Kazuyoshi MATSUMOTO	CONF. NO. 7509
	FILING DATE December 5, 2003	GROUP 2676

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	US 6,263,088 B1	07/17/2001	CRABTREE et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

		ANDREADIS, I., et al., "Image Pixel Classification By Chromaticity Analysis", Pattern Recognition Letters, North-Holland Publication, Amsterdam, NL, Vol. 11, No. 1, January 1990, pages 51-58, XP 000084831
		HSIEH, I-S., et al., "A Statistic Approach to the Detection of Human Faces in Color Nature Scene", Pattern Recognition Letters, Elsevier, Kidlington, GB, Vol. 35, No. 7, July 2002, pages 1583-1596, XP004345155
		VANDENBROUCKE, N., et al., "Contribution of a Color Classification to Soccer Players Tracking with Snakes", Systems, Man, and Cybernetics, 1997, Computational Cybernetics and Simulation, 1997 IEEE International Conference on Orlando, FL., 12-15 Oct. 1997, New York, NY, IEEE, Vol. 4, 12 October 1997, pages 3660-3665, XP010249167
		NAKAMURA, T. Et al., "On-line Visual Learning Method for Color Image Segmentation and Object Tracking", intelligent Robots and Systems, 1999, IROS International Conference on Kyongju, South Korea, 17-21 October 1999, Piscataway, NJ, IEEE, Vol 1, 17 October 1999, pages 222-228, XP010362569
		CHENG, H. D., et al., "Color Image Segmentation: Advances and Prospects", Pattern Recognition, Elsevier, Kidlington, GB, Vol. 34, No. 12, December 2001, pages 2259-2281, XP004508355
		RABOISSON, S. et al., "Obstacle Detection in Highway Environment by Colour CCD Camera and Image Processing...", Proc. 1999 IEEE/RJS ICIRS, 24 October 1994, pages 44-49, XP010258322
		TOMITA, A. et al., "A Visual Tracking System for Sports Video Annotation in Unconstrained Environments", Image Processing, 2000, Proceedings, 2000 International Conference on September 10-13, 2000, Piscataway, NJ, IEEE, Vol. 3, 10 September 2000, pages 242-245, XP010529448
		European Search Report issued on 12/05/2005

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

DJD:bof